

CD-ROM Draft Copy

Exhibit No. 4

Last printed 3/27/2007 2:30:00 PM

Date

3-28-07

REV mental health study.doc

Bill No.

HB 818

*** Bill No. ***

Introduced By *****

By Request of the (Agency or Department)

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a mental health services transformation committee to evaluate mental health funding mechanisms between the federal government and the state of Montana and funding efficiencies among departments and bureaus within the state of Montana."

WHEREAS, the mental health of Montanans is essential to their overall health; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana strives to provide a comprehensive system for the delivery of public mental health services in an efficient and cost-effective manner that ensures timely access to services that promote recovery;

WHEREAS, the state endeavors to integrate mental health services throughout the various divisions of the Department of Public Health and Human Services and all other state agencies and to offer state services with consideration to services provided by local governments, tribal governments, and the general health care system; and

WHEREAS, a continuous dialogue among the Legislature, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections, other state agencies, local governments, community service providers, consumers of mental health services and their families, mental health advocates, and all other interested persons is vital to developing an understanding of mental health services in Montana and the need to transform those services into an integrated, comprehensive public mental health system; and

CD-ROM Draft Copy

Last printed 3/27/2007 2:30:00 PM

REV mental health study.doc

WHEREAS, the goals and recommendations of the report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health provide a framework for transforming mental health care in Montana into a system that focuses on recovery and is one in which:

- (1) Montanans understand that mental health is essential to overall health;
- (2) mental health care is consumer-driven and family-driven;
- (3) disparities in mental health services are reduced;
- (4) early mental health screening, assessment, and referral to services occurs;
- (5) excellent mental health care is delivered and research is accelerated; and
- (6) technology is used to access mental health care and information; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide leadership in ensuring a future in which every person in Montana with a mental illness at any stage of life has timely access to effective treatment with objectively measurable outcomes and the support services essential for living, working, learning, and participating fully in the community; and

WHEREAS, the federal government and the State of Montana are partners in funding mental health services within Montana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Purpose. It is the purpose of the legislature to evaluate the public mental health services available to Montanans in order to transform those services into a comprehensive statewide public mental health system that:

- (1) fosters collaboration among federal, state, local, and private agencies with a mental health component;

CD-ROM Draft Copy

Last printed 3/27/2007 2:30:00 PM

REV mental health study.doc

(2) provides an integrated continuum of mental health services and associated support services;

(3) focuses on achieving objectively measurable treatment outcomes; and

(4) effectively blends resources so as to maximize efficiencies while ensuring appropriate, evidence-based practices that promote recovery.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Mental health services transformation committee. (1) There is a mental health services transformation committee. The voting members of the committee include:

(a) two members of the house of representatives, one of whom is appointed by the speaker and one of whom is appointed by the minority floor leader;

(b) two members of the senate, one of whom is appointed by the president and one of whom is appointed by the minority floor leader;

(c) two members appointed by the director of the department of public health and human services, one representing the addictive and mental disorders division and one representing the children's mental health bureau;

(d) two members appointed by the director of the department of corrections, who have responsibility for provision of mental health services to offenders; and

(e) three members of the public, consisting of one member representing each of the three service area authorities provided for in 53-21-1006 and appointed by the governor following consultation with the service area authorities.

(2) The following shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of the committee:

(a) the governor, or the governor's designee;

CD-ROM Draft Copy

Last printed 3/27/2007 2:30:00 PM

REV mental health study.doc

- (b) the director of the department of public health and human services, or the director's designee; and
- (c) the director of the department of corrections, or the director's designee.
- (3) The committee shall select its presiding officer from among the voting members at the first meeting of the committee.
- (4) The committee is attached to the legislative services division for administrative purposes.
- (5) The committee shall:
 - (a) evaluate all funding mechanisms and efficiencies between the federal government and the state of Montana and among the departments and bureaus of the state of Montana, to determine how the state can maximize federal participation for funding of mental health services;
 - (b) consider the interaction of funding sources in mental health services, courts, correctional systems, transportation, veterans' issues, substance abuse issues, housing issues, employment issues, and other issues relevant to the treatment and support of persons with serious mental illnesses, children with serious emotional disturbance, and their families; and
 - (c) consider new, innovative partnerships that can be created between public and private mental health services providers.
- (6) On or before September 1, 2008, the committee shall issue a report to the legislative finance committee and the governor that includes recommendations to the 61st Legislature for changes to Montana's current public mental health services necessary to maximize funding opportunities.
- (7) The committee shall conduct its work through one or more of the following:
 - (a) studies conducted by the committee;

CD-ROM Draft Copy

Last printed 3/27/2007 2:30:00 PM

REV mental health study.doc

- (b) studies for which the committee contracts; and
- (c) existing studies completed by reputable and reliable experts.

(8) In conducting its work, the committee:

(a) shall seek input from representatives from the mental disabilities board of visitors, the office of mental health ombudsman, the three service area authorities, local advisory councils, the mental health oversight advisory council, private organizations, professional mental health service providers, advocates for persons with mental illnesses, consumers of mental health services and their families, and members of the public;

(b) may request assistance from other legislative and executive branch agencies, the judicial branch, and local government; and

(c) shall examine the state's existing and projected financial resources as well as the needs and concerns of Montana taxpayers.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. {standard} Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

-END-